

DOLGELLAU RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



"EIN BRAINT EIN BRO"

A N N U A L
H E A L T H R E P O R T

For the year 1970

.....

Medical Officer of Health

HUGH FRANCIS
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

.....

Public Health Inspector

RONALD PUGH JONES
C.F.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

.....

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICER FOR 1970

To the Chairman and Members
of the Dolgellau Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Health Report for the year ended
31st December, 1970.

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population in the
Rural District was 6,510 a decrease of 500 over 1969.

There were 69 live births and no stillbirths compared with 78 live-
births and one stillbirth in 1961. This gives a live birth rate of
10.6 per 1,000 population (11.1 in 1969, 11.6 in 1968). No infant
under one year of age died in 1970, and no woman died in childbirth.

105 persons in the Rural District died during 1970. 53 of these
deaths were from heart and circulatory disease and strokes. 24 of the
deaths were due to cancer compared with 17 in 1969. There was no death
from tuberculosis but one new case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis was
notified.

I wish to thank the Public Health Inspector, the Surveyor, the
Clerk and all the other Council Officials for their help during the
year.

Finally I wish to thank all the Council Members for their
interest and encouragement.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

HUGH FRANCIS,
DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

GENERAL STATISTICS

SECTION A.

Area of Dolgellau Rural District 1970	158,942	acres
Rateable Value	184,689	
Population (Registrar General's figures)	6,510	
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	1,726	
Number of inhabited houses (According to the Rate Books) at end of year	3,276	

VITAL STATISTICS

Comparability Factors

Births	...	...	...	1.35
Deaths	...	...	...	.88

BIRTHS

<u>Live Births</u>		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total	...	33	36	69
Legitimate	...	30	30	60
Illegitimate	...	3	6	9
<u>Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population</u>				
	- 10.6			
1969 figures	- 11.1			
Illegitimate Live Births (per 1,000 population)	1.39			

<u>Still Births</u>		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total	...	nil	nil	nil
<u>Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population</u>	- nil			
<u>Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births</u>	- nil			

<u>TOTAL BIRTHS</u>	(Live & Still)			
Live	-	33	36	69
Still	-	nil	nil	nil

DEATHS

<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR</u>		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total	...	nil	nil	nil
Legitimate	...	nil	nil	nil
Illegitimate	...	nil	nil	nil
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	-	nil		
1969 figures	-	26		
Deaths of Legitimate Infants Mortality (per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births)	-	nil		
Deaths of Illegitimate Infants Mortality (per 1,000 illegitimate Live Births)	-	nil		

<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS</u>		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	
Total	...	nil	nil	
Legitimate	...	nil	nil	
Illegitimate	...	nil	nil	

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK

				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Total	....	....	....	nil	nil
Legitimate	....	....	....	nil	nil
Illegitimate	....	....	....	nil	nil
<u>Neo-Natal Mortality Rate</u>		-	nil		
<u>Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate</u>		-	nil		
<u>Perinatal Mortality Rate</u>		-	nil		
<u>MATERNAL DEATHS</u> (Including abortion)		-	nil		
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY</u> (Rate per 1,000					
	Live Still Births	-	nil		
	1969 figures	-	nil		

<u>DEATHS</u>				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total number	....	....		51	54	105
Rate per 1,000 population		....			
1969 figures		-				

DEATHS FROM CANCER

Total number	....	....		15	9	24
Rate per 1,000 population			3.68			
1969 figures			2.4			

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS

Total number	....	....	nil
Rate per 1,000 population			nil
1969 figures			2.4

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

(1) Public Health Officers of the Authority

One Medical Officer of Health.

One Public Health Inspector. One Technical Assistant.

(2) Laboratory Facilities

Bacteriological examination of water at the Public Health Laboratory Aberystwyth. Examination of milk for cleanliness, keeping quality tuberculosis and brucellosis at the Public Health Laboratory, Conway.

(3) Ambulance Facilities

There are four ambulances and one sitting case car situated at Dolgellau. Five full-time ambulance drivers are employed.

(4) Infant Welfare Clinics

At Corris Institute on the last Wednesday in each month.

At Dyffryn Ardudwy, Horeb Chapel Vestry on the 3rd Tuesday in the month.

At the Village Hall, Abergynolwyn on the last Friday in the month.

(5) Ante Natal Clinics: At Dolgellau Hospital on the 1st and 3rd Mondays in each month.

(6) Orthopaedic Clinic:

Held at the Dolgellau Hospital on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays in each month.

(7) Tuberculosis Clinic: Held at Dolgellau and District Hospital on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays in each month.

(8) Immunisation: Immunization against Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough, Poliomyelitis measles and Smallpox is carried out in the Infant Welfare Clinics and by General Practitioners at their surgeries.

(9) Hospitals: One Hospital at Dolgellau.

(10) Infectious Diseases: Total number of Infectious diseases
(other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year:- 24

Scarlet Fever		Infantile Paralysis	
Bacillary Dysentery		Pneumonia	
Whooping Cough:	1	Infective Jaundice:	1
Measles:	22		

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES

Pulmonary		<u>TOTAL</u>	nil
	Males	Females	
Non-Pulmonary		<u>TOTAL</u>	1
	Males	nil	Females
			1

TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS

Pulmonary		<u>TOTAL</u>	nil
	Males	Females	
Non-Pulmonary		<u>TOTAL</u>	nil
	Males	Females	

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1970 in age groups

Age Periods	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
2								
3								
5								
10								
15								
20								
25				1				
35								
45								
55								
65								
75								
TOTAL				1				

CAUSES OF DEATH 1970

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	-	-
Other Tuberculosis, Incl. Late Effects	-	-
Other Tuberculosis	-	-
Enterities and Other Diarrhoeal Diseases	nil	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc. Oesophagus	-	-
" " Stomach	nil	2
" " Intestine	2	2
" " Lung, Bronchus	5	1
" " Breast	-	2
" " Uterus	-	-
" " Prostate	2	-
Leukaemia	1	1
Other Malignant Neoplasm, etc.	5	1
Diabetes Mellitus	-	3
Avitaminoses, etc.	-	-
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	1	nil
Anaemias	-	-
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	-	-
Mental Disorders	-	-
Multiple Sclerosis	-	-
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	-
Hypertensive Disease	1	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	15	8
Other Forms of Heart Disease	5	2
Cerebrovascular Disease	6	12
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	2
Influenza	-	2
Pneumonia	2	5
Bronchitis and Emphysema	-	1
Other Disease of Respiratory System	1	1
Peptic Ulcer	-	-
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	-	-
Cirrhosis of Liver	-	-
Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	-	-
Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue	-	-
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	-	-
Congenital Anomalies	-	-
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	-	-
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	-	-
Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions	-	-
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1
All Other Accidents	1	5
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	1	nil
All Other External Causes	nil	1

FOOD HYGIENE

Food premises were inspected and advice given where required.

No. of Prosecutions

Nil

DOLGELLAU RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Health Department,
Victoria Buildings,
DOLGELLAU.

December, 1971.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Dolgellau Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs Davies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour in conjunction with Dr. Hugh Francis, Medical Officer of Health to submit the section of the Annual Health Report dealing with the environmental health of the district for the year ended 31st December, 1970.

The year under review again showed progress in the environmental standard of the district particularly in the provision of sewerage facilities and it must be very gratifying to the Council to realise that most villages in the district now enjoy mains water and sewerage services. The need for the Arthog/Friog/Fairbourne sewerage scheme cannot be overemphasised and the Council will undoubtedly do its utmost to ensure that this major project will commence before April 1974.

It is still a disappointment to the Council that the comprehensive water scheme planned for the Mawddach area by the now defunct Joint Water Committee has still not been fully implemented by the Merioneth Water Board. Indeed, there is evidence to suggest that there is a growing need to provide the villages of Llanelltyd, Taicynhaeaf and Bontddu with an adequate and wholesome supply of water and it is hoped that the Water Board will see their way clear to proceed with a scheme at the earliest possible opportunity.

The implementation of the 1969 and 1971 Housing Acts has seen a steady but not startling acceleration of Housing improvements in the district but it is feared that if the Government are to adhere to the 'deadline' of 23rd June 1973 for the 75% grant, the desired effect is going to be missed in this area. The scarcity of building contractors interested in undertaking moderate schemes of improvement and renovation in the district is one major reason for the slow progress in this sector at the present time.

The improvement of the environment is becoming increasingly important and whilst this area cannot claim to be at the foot of the environment league several villages will undoubtedly benefit by the application of small general improvement areas.

The problem of refuse disposal has yet to be solved and, although the Council have adopted on principle a scheme to erect a suitable type of incinerator to burn all the refuse of the district, progress with the acquisition of a site is still very slow.

There does not appear to be a general housing shortage in the district at the present time, and with the sad record of rural de-population taking place this is quite understandable. It is significant, however, that in many instances applications considered for re-housing by the Council reflect the many socio-medico pressures which appear to be becoming more apparent. Whilst it cannot be claimed that there is a real demand for a general house building programme the need for suitable elderly persons' accommodation cannot be over stressed and, no doubt, the Council will continue to give this very important aspect of housing its fullest support.

May I once again express my sincere thanks to the Council for their interest and support in tackling the many problems concerned with public health. The possibility of large scale mining operations in the district may bring with it environmental pollution problems which will demand your attention in the future. With the increasing emphasis on tourism we must also ensure that our standards do not diminish and the temptation to offer low quality accommodation, touring and camping sites and catering facilities must be resisted.

I am indebted to Dr. Hugh Francis for his support and advise, Mr. Llyr Jones, Technical Assistant for his loyalty and sense of duty, to Mr. B. Williams-Jones, Clerk to the Council, Mr. R. A. Roberts, Surveyor, Mr. M. T. Pritchard, Consultant Architect, for their advise and co-operation at all times. My sincere thanks are also due to the Council's administrative staff and last, but by far not least, to the outdoor staff for their faithful support and assistance.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

R. PUGH JONES

Public Health Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

Refuse Tips	121	Disinfestation	15
Refuse Collection	137	Watercourses	4
Drainage	47	New Housing Sites	4
Public Health Act re:-		Housing Acts	156
Housing defect	69	Housing Acts re:-	
Factories Act	4	overcrowding and	
Public Conveniences	79	Housing conditions	2
Caravan Sites	42	Improvement Grants	120
Camping Sites	78	Food and Drugs Act	28
Nuisances	21	Interview with Owners	
Dangerous Structures	8	and Builders etc.	35
Places of Public		Management - Council	
Entertainment	3	Houses	653
Common Land re. Nuisances	4	Miscellaneous	68
Infectious Diseases	8	Private Water Supplies	74

FACTORIES ACT 1937 - 1960

No. of Premises on Register	9
No. inspected re: cleanliness	4
No. inspected re: Sanitary	
Conditions	4
Defects found	-
Defects remedied	-

HOUSE IMPROVEMENTS

1970 gave the opportunity to assess the full implication and effect of the Housing Act 1969 and overall the picture cannot be claimed to have been as successful as the Council would desire. Even with the substantial national and local publicity, personal contact and the substantially increased grants available the response generally has been disappointing. In fact the number of applications for Improvement Grants was down by one on 1969 whilst there was only an increase of three application for Standard Grants during the same period. At the same time it is true to state that the increased grant has given far more scope for owners to carry out thorough and comprehensive improvement schemes and the 'end-product' is generally by far superior than heretofore.

I am most concerned about a certain category of dwelling that does not fall within the definition of improvement. This is the house that has already been provided with the basic amenities, with or without grant, and generally compares favourably with the twelve-point standard. The major defect is the house roof which in some instances requires complete renewal of timbers and slates. If the main objective of the Housing Act 1969 is to preserve the existing housing stock then in my opinion this item should be allowable as a proper improvement and not classed as a repair. Needless to say, one main side effect of increased grants is that property values and building costs have crept up considerably.

Applications for Discretionary Grants received during 1970	-	27
" " Standard Grants " " "	-	29
Discretionary Grant Schemes completed during 1970	--	10
Standard Grant Schemes " " "	-	20
Total Number of Discretionary Grant Schemes Completed 1949-1970	-	147
Total sum of Discretionary grants actually paid	£54,089: 15. 11.	
Total number of Standard Grant Schemes completed 1959-1970		196
Total sum of Standard Grants actually paid	£35,474: 9: 3.	

SUB-STANDARD HOUSING

Since 1957 the Council have dealt formally with 109 sub-standard dwellings most of which have been the subject of Closing Orders. During recent years 27 of these dwellings have been substantially renovated and improved and now provide useful units of housing accommodation. 17 houses have been demolished during the same period. It is estimated that there are about one hundred substandard houses remaining in the district but in many instances the only practical way of dealing with them is to defer action until the dwellings become vacant.

Two houses were the subject of formal action under the Housing Act 1957 during the year. Official undertakings not to re-let were accepted in both cases.

PURCHASE AND IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSES BY THE COUNCIL

The Council continued their policy of acquiring and improving tenanted properties. Unfortunately the improvement rate is slow but the end result is satisfactory. It is to be hoped that the attractive improvement contributions now available will be a means of accelerating the rate of improvement schemes during the next two years.

NEW COUNCIL HOUSE BUILDING

No new houses were built during the year.

PRIVATE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT

Private housing development continues to increase in certain parts of the district, particularly in the Llwyngwril, Fairbourne, Dyffryn and Talybont villages.

29 private houses were completed during the year and planning permission were granted for 56 houses.

PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICES

REFUSE COLLECTION

There was no substantial change in the refuse collection service during the year. The paper sack system again proved very efficient and acceptable to the public. It is estimated that approximately 85% of the entire district enjoy a regular weekly collection of refuse whilst the service is available to the remainder on a two or three weekly interval.

There was again a marked increase in the volume of refuse collected particularly during the busy holiday period and it was necessary to employ one temporary employee for two months to assist the collection staff.

All licensed caravan and camping sites are given a regular weekly collection and there is marked tendency for operators to adopt the paper or plastic sack system of storage at their own cost. This of course results in a marked improvement in the environmental standard of the sites and assists the refuse collectors considerably.

The collection of pail closet contents ceased in the village of Brithdir during the year leaving Pennal village and about six dwellings in the Corris/Aberllefenni district to be serviced. It is encouraging to note that the number is diminishing rapidly and I look forward to the time when there will be no further call for this essential but outmoded service.

Special collections of bulky refuse and discarded household articles are regularly carried out. This service is greatly appreciated by the public and reduces the problem of illicit dumping.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Two refuse tips were used during the year at Rhoslefain and Bontddu.

The Council considered the need to obtain a suitable tipping site to replace the Rhoslefain tip and negotiations commenced to seek a site near Garthangharad.

The disposal site at Bontddu continued to be used jointly by the Dolgellau Rural District Council and Barmouth Urban District Council. The useful life of this site is also reducing rapidly and the increasing bulk and nature of refuse is making control measures more difficult even though a considerable amount of money is spent on cartage of suitable covering material. Regular and effective spraying of the tip surfaces proved effective and fly infestation was kept at a very satisfactory low level.

TRANSPORT AND STAFF ENGAGED ON PUBLIC CLEANSING

1	-- 50 cu.yd. compression vehicle	(1970)
1	-- 30 cwt open type vehicle	(1966)
1	-- 26 cwt open type vehicle	(1966)
1	-- 35 cu.yd. compression vehicle (reserve and special collection	(1964)
1	-- Massey Ferguson Tractor (Refuse Disposal)	(1964)

Foreman - Vehicle maintenance, supervision, relief driver/loader and tip maintenance.

Driver/Loaders - Three

Loader - One plus one temporary during peak season.

There were no staffing problems during the year and generally the service ran smoothly. The increasing legislation now being applied to goods vehicles must lead to higher standards of maintenance of refuse vehicles. I am again indebted to the staff for their support in carrying out a very essential job of work which to say the least is burdensome and unpleasant.

LITTER

The Council undertake the collection of litter on behalf of the Highway Authority on an agency basis and this arrangement applies to all laybys and parking areas provided by that Authority. Arrangements for the storage and collection of litter within the confines of villages is the entire responsibility of this Authority. Adequate numbers of suitable paper and plastic sack receptacles ensure that generally the litter problem is contained within reasonable limits and a close liaison exists with the County Authority Officers to keep the problem under constant scrutiny.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The following villages are provided with adequate public conveniences:-

Abergynolwyn	Pennal	Bontddu
Llwyngwril	Dinas Mawddwy	Ganllwyd
Corris	Llanfachreth	Fairbourne (3)
Upper Corris	Llanegryn	Talybont Beach
	Dyffryn Ardudwy	

Work on the erection of public toilets in Talybont village and Rhydymain was commenced during the year and the provision of conveniences in Brithdir and Arthog was under consideration.

The use of all the conveniences are free to the general public. Cleaning and caretaking of the conveniences is carried out by part-time employees and generally the standard of cleanliness is satisfactory. The damage caused to these establishments by vandals is to be deprecated and the work of making good damage and the inconvenience caused to the public is difficult to accurately ascertain.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

It is pleasing to record that 1970 saw further progress in the provision of sewerage and sewage disposal in the district. The Brithdir Scheme was virtually completed and work began on the long awaited Pennal contract.

Unfortunately, the proposed comprehensive scheme for Arthog - Friog and Fairbourne has met with several complicating issues and whilst the public health demands for the scheme are urgent it appears that due to matters beyond the Council's control further delay is inevitable.

Preliminary plans were investigated to provide a sewerage scheme for the village of Penmaenpool and to pump the sewage to the proposed new disposal works serving Dolgellau. It is also proposed to pump the sewage from Llanelltyd to the same works.

There may be some justification to consider the feasibility of pumping the sewage from Bontddu and Taicynhaeaf into the Dolgellau Sewage Disposal Works and thus provide one adequate disposal works for the upper Mawddach/Wnion area especially as there is already a need for treatment works at Bontddu.

CARAVAN and CAMPING SITES

Number of Licensed Caravan Sites	-	59
Estimated total number of Caravans on licensed sites		3334

Regular inspections of the caravan sites during the holiday season did not reveal any serious breaches of the site licence conditions and no legal proceedings were instituted during the year.

For several years comments have been made in these reports on problems arising from camping and the need for better and more effective control. There are three main causes for these problems - the inadequate number of sites, the lack of control over existing sites and the popularity and increase in camping for the family holiday. This latter factor is so marked that the position has become serious during the summer months.

The need for suitable touring sites and adequate legislation to control tented camping sites is again emphasised and regardless of 'utopian views' to the contrary until these demands are met the indiscriminate parking of caravans and tents in road laybys and fields with the consequent public health hazards will continue.

FOOD PREMISES

Food Hygiene Regulations 1970: Food premises are inspected periodically and are usually found to be in a satisfactory state. No legal proceedings were instituted during the year. One case of unsound food was investigated.

Number and Class of Food Premises:

Public Houses	6	Greengrocery	2
Hotels & Resteraunts	18	Bakers and Confectioners	2
Cafes	12	Butchers	3
Clubs	3	Bakehouses	2
General Grocery	29	Ice Cream Retailers	34

Shops, Offices and Railway Premises Act 1963:

Number of Premises registered	43
Number of Premises inspected during the year (including re-visits)	37

WATER SUPPLY

The administration of the public water supply systems in the district is under the control of the Merioneth Water Board.

There were no drought conditions during the year. No major improvements nor extensions were undertaken in the district during 1970.

Estimated number of dwellinghouses connected to Public water supply systems	2,047
Estimated number of dwellinghouses on Private supplies	644
Estimated number on sub-standard or deficient water supplies	270

DETAILS OF WATER SAMPLING

PUBLIC SUPPLIES

<u>No. of Samples taken</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
42	35	7

PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES

<u>No. of Samples taken</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
32	10	22

ANNUAL REPORT ON RATS AND MICE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1970

	<u>Type of Property</u>	
	<u>Non</u> <u>Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification.	7	11
Number infested by rats	7	11
Number infested by mice	-	3
Total number of properties inspected for rats and mice for reasons other than notification	371	210
Number infested by Rats - Minor	135	69
" " " Mice - Minor	12	3

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